

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed on July 11, 2007.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 22, 23, 26, 27, 31, 34, 39, and 49 are amended. Claims 1-50 remain pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 13, 16, 17, 34, 39-42 and 45-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Mizoguchi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,801,521), hereinafter Mizoguchi.

Applicant respectfully traverses for at least the reason presented below.

Each of the independent claims 13, 34, and 39 is amended and recites the things that are at least similar to those of the allowed claims 18 and 49. For example, each of the claims 13, 34, and 39 recites that the second magnetic material layer is between the first conductive pattern and the second conductive pattern. Thus, Applicant believes that claims 13, 34, and 39 are patentable over Mizoguchi. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 13, 34, and 39 and their dependent claims.

Independent claim 47, as previously presented, recites, among other things, depositing a second non-magnetic insulating layer “on” the open inductor pattern, wherein the second non-magnetic insulating layer directly contacts the first non-magnetic insulating layer. The Office Action points to FIG. 60 to reject claim 47. FIG. 60 of Mizoguchi shows an insulating layer 20 being “under” (not “on”) two planar magnetic elements 1. In contrast, claim 47 recites depositing a second non-magnetic insulating layer “on” the open inductor pattern. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 47 and its dependent claims.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizoguchi et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses for at least the reason presented below.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13. Thus, for at least the reasons presented above regarding claim 13, Applicant believes that claims 14 and 15 are also patentable over Mizoguchi. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 14 and 15.

Claims 22-30 and 35-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizoguchi et al. in view of Walsh (U.S. Patent 6,233,834).

Each of the independent claims 22, 23, 26, and 27 is amended and recites the things that are at least similar to those of the allowed claims 18 and 49. For example, each of the claims 22, 23, 26, and 27 recites that the second magnetic material layer is between the first conductive pattern and the second conductive pattern. Thus, Applicant believes that claims 22, 23, 26, and 27 are patentable over Mizoguchi or the combination of Mizoguchi and Walsh. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 22, 23, 26, and 27 and their dependent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-21, 43 and 44 were allowed.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 18-21, 43, and 44.

Claims 49 and 50 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 49 is rewritten in independent form, as suggested by the Office Action. The rewriting does not alter the scope of this claim. Thus, claim 49 and its dependent claim 50 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejoinder of Claims

The Examiner agreed that claim 34 is generic (please see the Office Action dated July 27, 2004). Since claim 34 is now believed to be allowable, Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder and allowance of the withdrawn claims 1-12 and 31-33 when claim 34 is allowed.

Reservation of Rights

In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicant may not have addressed every assertion made in the Office Action. Applicant's silence regarding any such assertion does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicant reserves all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicant timely objects to such reliance on Official Notice, and reserves all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicant reserves all rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request rejoinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' representative (612) 373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

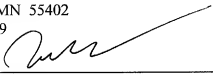
Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date 8-2-2007

By 

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8. The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 3 day of August 2007.

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Signature